

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 02 APR 2004

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Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IT 03/00523	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.09.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B21B1/46, B21B1/46		
Applicant ARVEDI, Giovanni		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12.02.2004	Date of completion of this report 01.04.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Telephone No. +31 70 340- 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IT 03/00523

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-14 as published

Claims, Numbers

1-24 as published

Drawings, Sheets

1/6-6/6 as published

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-5 634 257 (YOSHIMURA YASUTSUGU ET AL) 3 June 1997 (1997-06-03)

2. Claim 13 complies with the requirements of novelty and inventive step as set forth by Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT:

- a. Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. column 10, line 48 - column 14, line 55; figure 1) a production line from which the subject-matter of claim 13 differs in that:

" ... said casting machine is able to give a crowned shape of the cross section of the slabs...

... a roller table for reducing the slab thickness during the solidification from 100 to 70 mm at the mould exit up to a solidification thickness of 80-40 mm ...

... a secondary spray cooling system ...

... a plastic stretching device ..."

The subject-matter of claim 13 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

- b. The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as manufacturing ultrathin, hot, 0,4 mm thick strips in a thermo-mechanical way according to the T.T.T. diagram.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 13 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because the proposed solution is neither disclosed nor it is suggested by any prior art document.

3. Claims 14-24 are dependent on claim 13 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT).
4. Claim 1 relates to a process for the continuous production of ultrathin rolled strip using the production line of claim 13 with all its features as claimed. Consequently,

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mutatis mutandis, the same considerations as per claims 13 apply, i.e. claim 1 also meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT).

5. Claims 2-12 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT).